

May 23, 2014

Weekly Views

The final totals are in for the 2014 Trash Bash! Throughout the month of April, Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) work crews hit the pavement to clean up Indiana's roadways, highways and interstates. From the 13 facilities and parole districts that participated, 12,916 bags of trash were collected from 606 miles of roadside. The Department has partnered with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) in this endeavor since 1997. "This annual cleanup effort gives our offenders an opportunity to make a positive impact on the community and give back in a big way. Once again our work crews stepped up to the challenge and surpassed our hopes for this year's campaign.

We are thankful to INDOT for continuing to partner with us for this important public service," commented IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon. (photo right)

The Indiana Protection for Abused and Trafficked Humans (IPATH) Task Force conducted a training seminar on human trafficking at the Indiana Women's Prison for approximately 50 IDOC employees throughout the state. Deputy Commissioner James Basinger introduced the panel members including Federal Bureau of Investigations Agent Michelle Cunnane, Homeland Security Agent Darlene Bradley and Keynote Speaker Tena Dellaca-Hedrick.



Miami Correctional Facility (MCF) had more than 100 runners and walkers participate in the 4th Annual MCF Prison 5K Run/Walk in Bunker Hill. The event is a fundraiser to help raise money for the Employee Appreciation activities. Several MCF staff helped with the event, setting it up, and several walked or ran in the event. (photo left, Race Director Ann Hubbard yells out times at the finish line. Finishing as the first female runner, at right, is her daughter, Emilie Hubbard, ending with a personal best time.)



Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility hosted a school open house for students' families. The facility sponsored a cookout to thank family members for participating in their student's education. There was a terrific turnout for the event, as over 140 students, family members and staff enjoyed a day of conversation and celebration to recognize the terrific activities and progress taking place at the school. One mother stated, "It's wonderful to see how many people care about my son and his education." (photo below)

Mike Herron and Doug Evans of PEN Products joined 15 individuals from Purdue University's Human Resource Department and the Department of Workforce Development's HIRE program to discuss employment opportunities for ex-offenders.

On behalf of Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) offender American Legion Post 608, PCF staff members Wayne Scaife and Tom Francum presented five scholarships to students at Pendleton Heights High School during their Senior Awards Banquet. Two students were presented scholarship awards in the amount of \$608 each and three students were presented scholarship checks in the amount of \$203 each. The awards were presented in connection with a contest conducted by American Legion Post 608 in which the participants submitted essays relative to how the military has affected their lives. The money to support these scholarships was made possible by fundraising activities conducted at the facility sponsored by the offender American Legion Organization.



The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) has received approved for a \$5,000 grant from the 2014 Library Services & Technology Application, "Empowerment through Technology". Grant applications were reviewed by a panel of outside reviewers and Indiana State Library staff. It was reported that IWP received high scores out of 49 applicants.

More than 60 people enjoyed a Poetry Ready Workshop at the Indiana State Prison. The attendees included aspiring poets, outside guests and the musical renderings of Captain Ambivalent (aka Dan Biemer), who delighted the crowd with his lighthearted humor through music. The workshop allowed some of the institution's poets to recite their works before an appreciative audience.

At its second blood drive of the year, Westville Correctional Facility had 37 volunteers show up for the American Red Cross, and 27 total pints were collected. Westville thought this was going to be their spring donation, but it felt more like winter with measurable snow in the Chicago suburbs!

The Red Cross Bloodmobile visited Camp Summit Boot Camp and collected 15 units of blood from staff who donated. The bloodmobile visit, coordinated by Camp Summit staffer Pat Kimmel, was part of the IDOC's Blood Drive Challenge. The Red Cross will return to Camp Summit in July.

The Pendleton Correctional Facility held a reception to honor veteran employee Captain Levi Stonebarger who will be retiring this month with 33 years of dedicated service to the Pendleton Correctional Facility and IDOC. Congratulations Captain Stonebarger!